

# KanView makes the grade

U.S. Public Interest Research Group recognizes state's efforts to boost financial transparency

A national organization focused on government transparency has given high marks to the State of Kansas for its efforts to make significant upgrades to its KanView online financial data portal.

The U.S. Public Interest Research Group Education Fund gave Kansas a "B" ranking in its latest report, "Following the Money 2015: How the 50 States Rate in Providing Online Access to Government Spending Data." This is the sixth such report by the organization.

"Budget transparency is becoming a clear priority among the states, as shown by some of the dramatic improvements we've seen in this year's study," said Phineas Baxandall, Senior Analyst with the U.S. Public Interest Research Group Education Fund.

States were judged on a 100-point system by U.S. PIRG



and the organization took note of how the KanView site was improved with addition of keyword search functions, downloadable data and a page that details the information excluded from the website.

Department of Administration Secretary Jim Clark said he was pleased that U.S. PIRG had recognized the commitment Kansas has made to government transparency and making the necessary improvements to increase public trust in the accounting of taxpayer dollars.

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## Griffie named Employee of Quarter

Christine Griffie was recognized during a ceremony in February as the Department of Administration's Employee of the Quarter. Griffie, pictured above with Gov. Sam Brownback, left, and Department of Administration Secretary Jim Clark, was selected for the honor following her work to make upgrades to the state's KanView system. Griffie is a senior applications developer for the Office of Information Technology Services.

## Becker new Director of Financial Management

Kansas Department of Administration Secretary Jim Clark announced March 17 that Colleen Becker was now serving as Director of Financial Management for the agency.

Becker previously served as financial services manager within the Office of Financial Management. She began her career with the state in July 1989 with the Department of Administration before spending time with the Kansas Department of Education, the Kansas Board of Regents and returning to the Department of Administration in 2002.

# KanView earns 'B' from transparency group for upgrades

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"This year's grade is a reflection to the increased collaboration between agencies and dedicated employees who were dedicated to improving KanView," Clark said. "Taxpayers deserve a system that pre-

sents government's spending

practices in a manner that is easy to view and easy to understand."

**U.S. PIRG**

Kansas was one of 18 states earning a "B" ranking, categorized as an "advancing state." Ohio led the nation with an "A+" rating, while three states earned "F" rankings for failure to provide any financial information.

In discussing the state's efforts, U.S. PIRG took note of the redesigned website that makes it easier for the public to download information for review, as well as additional links to information regarding economic development incentives.

"Providing such clear, program-specific webpages and data just a mouse click away from the homepage makes critical information regarding millions in taxpayer-supported spending easily accessible to the public," the report concluded.

The complete report can be found at <http://uspirg.org/reports/usp/following-money-2015>.

The state's KanView site can be found at <http://kanview.ks.gov>.

## 5 Questions Profile

Randy Kennedy

Eisenhower State Office Building



### What are your favorite pastimes or hobbies?

Hiking in the mountains

### What's your favorite restaurant?

5 Guys Hamburgers

### What's your favorite movie?

*The Dark Knight*

### What is your favorite band?

The Black Keys

### What's your favorite book?

*Game of Thrones* series



## A note from the Secretary...

Sports language is not confined to the football field, basketball court or baseball park. It permeates all of our lives to describe situations that arise in daily lives and the people we encounter.

We all know what it means when someone "hits a home run" or "throws a Hail Mary." We frequently see the "ball in the other court" or someone "going the distance" and everyone "pulling together to get the ball over the goal line."

But there is another term that is particularly appropriate for business and government and one that we see played out this time of year as college basketball teams compete for a national championship. Frequently, it isn't the team with the best coach or the all-American who wins the title. It's a deep bench.

While government isn't measured on a daily basis in terms of wins and losses like sports teams, we can calculate victories and defeats in how we provide critical services to the residents of Kansas, other agencies and local units of government. Having a deep bench is crucial to having success on a daily basis and having a government that has continuity.

Players retire, graduate college, or heaven forbid, suffer devastating injuries that weaken that bench. The same thing happens in business and government. The term used in sports is "next player up" and you expect that they are ready to perform at a high level.

State government can do many things to help facilitate that process by making sure that there is someone there to fill the void when our players retire, leave for other employment or are ill. We provide opportunities for employees to receive additional education and training to learn additional skills. We can give them opportunities to expand their scope of duties to have the ability to step in to get the job done.

It is incumbent that we look for those opportunities for our employees and do everything possible to prepare for those life events that are often beyond our control. Having a deep bench with cross-trained employees, with expertise in a variety of skills, serves the agency, the taxpayer and all of Kansas better.

And good luck on your bracket picks!